

REMARKS

The Office Action dated June 14, 2007 has been read and carefully considered and the present amendment submitted to better define the present invention over the cited reference. It is noted that a new Declaration has been required and Applicant is in the process of obtaining signatures on that new document and it will be filed by a Supplemental Amendment.

In that Office Action, claims 1-47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Boone *et al*, U.S. 2002/0196141.

As such, all of the independent claims have now been amended to better point out a feature of the present invention. As stated in the present specification, the purpose of the present invention is to provide an integrated monitoring apparatus that is intended to be located proximate to the patient, that is, in the room where the patient is located and which centralizes all of the monitoring functions into that integrated monitoring apparatus. Thus, the conglomeration and proliferation of multiple separate monitors exemplified in a typical patient room where an infant is being cared for and which is shown in Fig. 1 is alleviated.

Accordingly, claim 1 has now been amended to recite that the invention is a carestation "having a monitor" and wherein that monitor that is within the carestation receives the various signals from an environmental sensor and at least two physiological sensors. The monitor integrates the signals from those sensors to provide an output of those signals as a compact bundle of information. Importantly, the claim covers a carestation and not a system of assembling and transmitting signals to a remote location. The advantage is that the carestation is located in the patient environment so that all of the monitors for the patient are readily available to a caregiver at the location where the patient is being treated.

As such, claim 1 now recites a single piece of apparatus that has a monitor as well as a signal processing means integrated thereinto that receives the signals from the various individual sensors and integrates all of those signals within the carestation itself to provide an integrated output stream of combined information representative of the individual sensors.

By combining those signals and that information integrated into a single location proximate to the patient, considerable efficiency can be realized over the use of individual sensors at or near the patients since the integration of signals by the common monitor of the carestation can avoid redundant circuits that are necessary if each sensor had its own monitor as is conventional.

There is no such individual piece of integrated apparatus disclosed or suggested in the Boone *et al* reference that can provide an integrated stream of signals for separate monitors of a patient. In the Boone *et al* reference, there is a system for taking the information from individual sensors, such as at the hospital location, to a remote location where the information is accessible to a subscriber with some input recognition system. There is no suggestion of an integrated carestation that is located proximate to a patient to receive data and information to directly care for that patient. For all one can determine, the Boone *et al* system utilizes conventional sensors and there is no common monitor to receive those signals and process them on site.

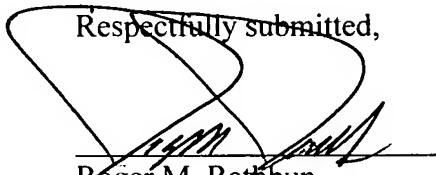
Claim 6 has been amended to define a further feature of the present invention *i.e.* where the carestation has an alpha-numeric readout that provides a “recommended course of action” to a caregiver based on the integrated stream of data and information that has been inputted into the carestation. Again, the key is having a unitary piece of apparatus, that is, the carestation on site at the location of the patient where all of that information can be assimilated into the monitor of the carestation and, using a smart alarm system or smart network, such as a neural network, to analyze the integrated stream of information combining both parameters relating to the apparatus tending to the patient as well as physiological conditions of the patient to provide the caregiver with a suggested course of action.

In claim 17, there is also now a recitation of a carestation having a monitor where all of the information is delivered to the monitor to be integrated into a common stream of information available at the carestation for use in the monitor. The information in the integrated data stream is therefore available to the caregiver on site at the location of the patient.

The same is true of the system and carestation now recited in amended independent claims 26 and 38.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the claims, as now amended, are patentable over the cited reference and an allowance of the present application is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Roger M. Rathbun  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
Registration No. 24,964

13 Margarita Court  
Hilton Head Island, SC 29926  
(843) 682-2501